

PARISH MAGAZINE

Issue 10 December 2022 www.bishopstachbrook.com

Your magazine featuring news and views from Bishop's Tachbrook Parish.



Heart of England Farms

Festive flavour to savour



Heart of England Farms have been rearing christmas poultry for over 30 years. Specialising in free range bronze turkeys, cockerels, white turkeys and geese we can offer something to keep every taste-bud happy! With sizes ranging from smaller 3kg cockerels to beautiful 11kg+ turkeys, whatever the size of your gathering we have the ideal solution.

After spending so long apart during recent Christmas periods, it is now time to be together. An ideal opportunity to put those new found cooking skills to the test perhaps!

Our bronze turkeys have free range in open fields, the perimeter fence is to keep the wily fox out rather than the birds in! The geese wander at will being allowed acres of space for grazing, and our cockerels and ducks are allowed the time to reach maturity resulting in the tastiest birds ever!

For prices and ordering please visit our website, however for any individual questions do not hesitate to give us a call. Collection days are the 23rd and 24th December or delivery can be arranged as required.

www.heartofenglandfarms.com

Be together this Christmas

01926 843460

Henley Road, Claverdon, CV35 8PS

What's in this month's magazine

Hi and welcome to the Christmas/New Year edition of your Parish Magazine, an edition packed with important news of both a religious and secular nature!

For starters there's Revd. Jonathan's piece reflecting on the meaning of Christmas.

On the secular front there's an update on the most current issue facing the parish namely the development of our new school. Hopefully there'll be more information by the time you read the article but it does show what's happening and what the Parish Council and others were trying to achieve on your behalf—let's hope it worked!!

In addition there's an update on other issues facing your council representatives and how they've been trying to address them. One issue concerns the latest Housing Needs Survey which should have been delivered to you, if not there's an online link in the article on the HNS on page 35. The more people who complete the survey the more accurate it is. PLEASE complete the survey!!

Elsewhere there's a range of articles ranging from musical improvisation to owls and our climate fight, lots to interest you. For parents of children of Heathcote Primary School, there's an article by the head teacher.

I need to thank all the wonderful people who've contributed articles, pictures, drawings and poems during the past year, without you the magazine doesn't work so a **BIG** thanks.

Next year we hope to be able to print more editions of the magazine and they'll always be an online version.

If you want to contribute just send me your ideas by emailing:
btparishmagazine@hotmail.com.

Happy reading, Happy Christmas and a great 2023

Vicar's Christmas Message 2022

Revd. Jonathan



Here we go, here we go, here we go! Hark the greatest event of all. Have costumes at the ready, the songs, scarves, flags, beer, nibbles, and the parties. And just for those who aren't quite sure, I'm not talking about the World Cup which happens to drop in this month but the St Chads Christmas services.

If you're aware of this Vicars passion for the beautiful game, you'll sympathise that it all feels very odd and upside down this year, a challenge when you are forced choose between two passions or like an awful feeling of having double booked. For many a festive season in the UK in all its tradition and familiar comforts has underpinned this time of year. Standing in supermarket queues buying stuff that you wouldn't normally dream of buying, exchanging wry smiles with other parents in toy shops and the lovely Carols we sing during Advent. All over the place there is an innate feeling that Christmas is the time for seeing the good around us, feeling the joy of others and putting aside differences that ordinarily disconnect us. Like so much of late the rug is being pulled from underneath.

A digressive Christmas World Cup is perhaps a true Instagram snapshot of where we are in society. Our desire for constant entertainment sometimes pushes the sacred and spiritual to the fringes. Christmas swallowed up in an everyday activity

that we can access 24/7/365. Is this bar-humbug to the plethora of joys available to contemporary society and do we sense the spiritual baby has long been thrown out with the bathwater from the public square?

Maybe it's an imperative moment to notice something significant afresh. Everything about Christmas flies in the face of what we saw in the build up to the World Cup. Where Christmas celebrates the gift of life, generosity, inclusivity, and open expression of sacrificial love we are witnessing all that against a backdrop of exclusivity, greed, and exploitation. Watching governed oppressed workers and their families producing golden palace-like stadiums is quite a hard thing to digest. The avarice sadly won't end when the first ball is kicked when unreasonable food and drink prices will no doubt milk the travelling fan – Merry Christmas everyone!

So, lets apply some Christmas balm to all this madness. God's message of love, longing to feed us and nourish us. As Scrooge learned how to make Cratchits home a place of love and compassion, he discovered that giving and receiving were two sides of the same coin. We see the nature of God's love not as beggar's dependant on his generosity, but the abundant love God lavished us with from the moment of incarnation.

At the crib of Jesus, *all* nations are welcome - not just the elite. All races, communities, and cultures, Western, Arab, black, white, old, and young, are counted to play a part. God himself, Jesus, was offered as a tiny baby, not purchased, or won by talent, wealth, or health but simply because of connection with his crowning glory. Despite what we have mostly done to the world we are still the living legacy.

As a patriotic (and hopelessly optimistic) Englishman I thought adjusting the Carol concert to accommodate the football final was a clever move but in hindsight the more I learn, the less it seems relevant. I hope it will all work out but ultimately, we take comfort in knowing God remains unchanged and unmoved throughout this festive period, long after winners are crowned, and the after-tournament celebrations have ceased.

On behalf of all at St Chads, whatever you are doing have a happy Christmas and we wish you all peace and joy. We also look forward to welcoming you to the events or services in the village this December. Please see the programme on the next page.



Christmas at St Chads

4 Dec 4pm
Christingle

11 Dec 4pm
Carols on the Green

18 Dec 10am
Nativity Service

18 Dec 6:30pm
Traditional Carol Service

24 Dec 4pm
Crib Service

24 Dec 10:30pm
Midnight Mass

25 Dec 10am
Family Service with Communion

THANKS

St. Chads P.C.C. would like to thank all who have helped maintain and care for the churchyard over the past year, especially Phil and Gary for mowing the grass and also the Parish Working Party for all their help. It has all been greatly appreciated.



It just leaves us wishing you all a
Happy Christmas and New Year.



Dreaming of a white Christmas

St Chad's Tinies

Every Monday – Term Time

10 – 11.30am

£2 per Adult & £1 per Child



Cash or Card accepted

Refreshments provided



Starting on 19th September 2022

At

St Chad's Centre
Bishops Tachbrook
CV33 9RJ



Party time

St Chad's Church is now running the Tinies and we have been having lots of fun.

Our Christmas party will be 12th December when Castle small will be joining us. There will be a present for each child.



St Chad's Cafe

The café will open to lovers of tea and cakes every Thursday from 10.15 to 11.45 a.m.

£2 for a drink and cake.



Angels

If anyone out there has some spare time between now and mid December, would you like to knit a few angels.? They don't have to be elaborate or even in white. A perfect way to use up all your odd bits of wool.

I can supply a pattern which is really easy or use your own

Anne Allen 0770470165

Parish Council News

By Matt Greene

Recently another councillor told me that we all now live in a constant state of anxiety; he was right. It's not just the constant and accelerated change that we see around us, it's the speculation of what that change may be; this creates multiple realities for people where they have to live through various scenarios most of which never come to pass.

Christmas used to be a time of rest and a break from the 24-hour news cycle for a couple of weeks; it was a chance to rest, rejoice with friends and family and reflect on what is really important in our lives. Over the past few years, the period around Christmas has been badly affected by wider events (2019 - a bitter general election, 2020 - a severe lockdown and 2021 - the threat of one). I hope that, this Christmas, if not for the world or our country, at least for our community we can find rest from our worries and find a way to treat others and ourselves with compassion and kindness.

Our December Parish Council meeting is due to take place on 8 December; our aim is for this meeting to start at 7pm (not 7.30pm); however, please look out for notifications nearer the time. The Stowe Valley Trust (who have been appointed to manage the school) will be present. Please come along and listen to their plans and ask questions. We will also receive a presentation from a local developer, the Deeley Group, who have asked to speak to us about developments they plan to put forward for planning permission within the Parish.

Many of you will know that the parish has suffered for years with sewage overflowing onto our streets and more recently into some residents' homes. Many past councillors have tried to liaise with our water company to get this resolved with only minor repair achievements. Councillors were very pleased when a representative from our water company agreed to attend a parish meeting. Amy Spencer attended our November meeting to provide an update and take questions. Amy works for the water company and she explained that this area has finally received funding for addressing our overloaded sewage issues.

New pipes (double the size of existing pipes) are to be laid along Oakley Wood Road from Church Hill to cope with the demand being placed on the system from the new developments. This project hasn't been designed yet but Amy has promised to attend our meeting again to update on the design and progress. At the moment the water company is looking at completing the work by March 2024; Amy is confident that this will completely address future flooding in this problem area.

Additionally, flood monitors are expected to be installed by the end of the year so that outside clean up works can be automatically requested and undertaken.

Any residents with sewage issues including smells should email the clerk who will forward your email to Amy for attention.

I recently met (virtually) with Police Inspector Wayne Boulton who confirmed that the Police covering the village should also be assisting with the new developments on Heathcote and Warwick Gates. We will try to obtain contact details and place notices on the notice boards and on the website. Representatives from the Police are also willing to attend a community event to meet residents and answer any questions, we will work to arrange this for the new year.

Thanks to Cllr. Leigh Carter Seven Acre Close has road markings on the raised table. The 'leading to Seven Acre Close' signage has been ordered and will be erected as soon as possible by the developer.

The fence adjacent to the play area on the Meadow has been repaired - please do not sit on this fence.

Thanks to the Working Party an area behind the Bullen Building on the Meadow has been cleared ready for the planting of our first orchard. If you are able to help please contact Cllr. Keith Wellsted.

As noted before, our next scheduled meeting is on 8th December at 7pm at St. Chad's Centre.

Finally all councillors wish everyone a Peaceful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

School update

It's hard to believe that it has been more than three years since outline planning permission was granted for the new all through school in Bishop's Tachbrook. Hard to believe because, despite the welcome appointment of Stowe Valley multi academy trust earlier this year and the progress being made on the recruitment for the key school positions, after more than 36 months there is no physical sign of a school. Rest assured that children will be educated as planned, places will be allocated, life-long friendships will form, but, for the class joining in 2023, not in Bishop's Tachbrook.

In November, the parish council found themselves back at a planning committee meeting associated with the school; this time with an objection - not to the school itself (which is supported by the PC and our residents), nor to the associated housing (which is not) but instead to the shock (and, frankly, last minute) proposal to close Oakley Wood Road for six months and to route much of the construction traffic down Oakley Wood Road through the village of Bishop's Tachbrook.

Thank you to the many residents who came to our November meeting to speak on this topic in a constructive yet passionate way; thank you also to those of you who wrote to members of the council with your concerns.

In respect of the proposed six month closure - aided by Warwick District Council (and particularly District Cllr. Andrew Day), we have robustly articulated the essential nature of Oakley Wood Road as a vital link between the different areas of our Parish. Its closure for any real length of time would significantly inconvenience many. Moreover, with the exit from Mallory Road onto Banbury Road being so fraught with peril, particularly at rush hour, we believe that the closure of Oakley Wood Road would be very dangerous and a risk to the health of our residents. That the Parish Council went as far as to object to the detailed planning application as a whole (but specifically on this point) is a demonstration of our absolute opposition to this closure.

In respect of the construction traffic - it was specifically agreed by WDC officers that "construction traffic would not pass through the main settlement areas of

Bishop's Tachbrook instead coming from the Fosse Way access off Harbury Lane". This was important to many residents at the time and remains important now; the Parish Council remains resolute that the route agreed in 2019, and the commitments made by both the developer and WDC, must still be adhered to.

Those of you who attended the Parish Council meeting will be aware of WCC's concerns that not complying with their requests may jeopardise the timeline for the delivery of the school - in other words, "stand in the way and you will be responsible for a failure in education provision". I find this argument to be disingenuous; planning permission for the access way was granted in 2019, there has been time to consider this properly and I don't believe that failures elsewhere should compel the Parish Council or our residents to accept the inconvenience, misery and danger of the proposals as they stand - the ends do not justify the means.

As a note of reassurance on this point, I have met with both the head of Stowe Valley Trust and the Head of Myton School; they are experienced and impressive leaders. I have confidence that they will always make provision to ensure that Oakley School pupils will be educated in a suitable, safe and fully equipped environment.

I do feel like we're moving in the right direction in terms of significantly reducing the impact (which will be a really positive achievement); however, the indications I have been given do not go far enough. I was hoping to bring readers of this article a resolution but (having been chased several times by the editor of the magazine telling me I have until 4pm or he'll print without me!) I shall not go into detail knowing that, whatever I say, is likely to be out of date before the ink dries. Stay positive!

TRACC

A Warning From The Wildwood

I was trying my best to find my stash of food for the winter and getting absolutely nowhere. All these pesky leaves weren't here before. My wife Ivy is always getting on to me for being slap-dash. I can just hear her shouting at me, "It's you all over, why didn't you look for something nearby as a marker?" I was getting really worried; I can't let the family go hungry.

Suddenly, angry barking drowned out the gossipy bird chatter. Louder and louder, the barker was coming my way fast. Better hightail it out of here before I'm lunch. Yes, yes, fat, over-fed Funny Foxes do think I'm fair game but I don't. And now it sounds like his mates are joining in. Lots of yelps and howls were interrupted by the yells of exasperated 2 legs, failing miserably to call back their pampered pooches. The snarling pack was having a great time chasing poor little me through the brambles. I'll show them, a quick swerve and a leap up the trunk of the nearest tree. Looking down to taunt them as they bayed for my blood, I hopped off home to face the music.

Ivy started before I could catch my breath, "Where are the acorns then?" "Didn't have time, I was in danger, Funny Foxes were going to eat me," I said. Ivy replied, "You've been away ages and had plenty of time." Diversionary tactics were called for. I launched into my speech about the 2 legs ruining our lives in the Wildwood. "Funny Foxes are a real menace. It's not safe anymore and don't get me started on the smelly poo, some of it tied up in nasty little bags. I nearly sliced my leg off on a tin can the other day. They treat our home like a dustbin." I knew this would wind her up.

Ivy interrupted, "Did you know that 2 legs were responsible for nearly killing us last summer when we passed out with the heat, then we almost drowned when big rain flooded the forest. Old Owlie told me that he overheard a group of 2 legs talking about something called global warming. They said that those machines that have run over so many of our relatives when they crossed the lane, push out nasty smelly stuff that makes the sun angry so everything gets hotter and hotter. We are all going to die unless they stop the smelly stuff. And did you know that the 2 legs are chopping down homes like our trees all over the place? This makes things even

worse because the leaves suck up the smelly stuff and bury it out of harms way underground."

"Amazing" I said. "That's our Wildwood for you, it's always looking after us." Ivy carried on, "And they have the cheek to call us verminy tree rats and try to kill us at every opportunity. Unless of course it's our cousins in the town, they call them cute and they feed them peanuts of all things. We didn't ask to come here. Our ancestors were captured and brought over like slaves from the USA to act as an amusing novelty to liven up their big estates. And would you believe, nowadays 2 legs in America say we are one of the most important green super heroes because we regenerate the woods and spread seeds. With 2 legs you never know whether you're coming or going. Now let's find those acorns."

Hopping onto the ground at the bottom of the tree I noticed the leaves had been scattered by the Funny Foxes rushing around after me. I quickly spotted a patch of earth I recognised as one of my acorn stores. I laughingly said, "At least Funny Foxes are useful for something." Ivy chipped in, "We'll have enough left over for our mid winter feast and all the other acorns you've hidden will grow and provide food for our generations to come.

The End.....maybe



Poetry please

The trouble with snowmen

Roger McGough

The trouble with snowmen,
Said my father one year
They are no sooner made
than they just disappear.

I'll build you a snowman
And I'll build it to last
Add sand and cement
And then have it cast.

And so every winter,'
He went on to explain
'You shall have a snowman
Be it sunshine or rain.'

And that snowman still stands
Though my father is gone
Out there in the garden
Like an unmarked gravestone.

Staring up at the house
Gross and misshapen
As if waiting for something
Bad to happen.

For as the years pass
And I grow older
When summers seem short
And winters colder.

The snowmen I envy
As I watch children play
Are the ones that are made
And then fade away

Bishops Tachbrook Events Group Bonfire Night in conjunction with the Sports & Social Club



The Events Group and the Sports & Social Club would like to say a massive Thank You to everyone who helped make this years' bonfire night happen. It takes a huge amount of work but the more help we get the easier it is. Particular thanks to the Brownies, for making the Guy, the fire building crew, Mr Gandy (and his Massey Ferguson), the BBQ kings and all of the bucket shakers and stewards. And lastly a massive thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets, threw some money in the buckets, or used Just Giving. I'm glad to say we raised enough to pay for next year!!

Raffle Prize Winners were:

J. Wilson, G. Mowat, Geoff Cox,
Shaf Uodin, Tony McNally, Florentina,
Graeme, Mrs Callow

What's on

Bishops Tachbrook Sports & Social Club

Entertainments

December

10th December – Christmas Quiz.

Pit your wits against the Judge and his festive Quiz, How much do you know about Christmas?

Prizes for every team. Starts at 8.30

17th December – Bottle Bingo.

Come and win some Christmas Cheer to brighten up your festive celebrations.

Books on sale from 7.30pm Eyes down at 8pm (over 18s Only)

24th December – Christmas Raffle Draw & Christmas Eve Music Videos.

We start the evening with the Raffle Draw then relax and enjoy some of the classic music videos of the festive season before the chaos of Christmas Day.

8pm till Late.

31st December – New Year's Eve with The Warning.

A Fabulous New Year's Eve celebration with The Warning one of Warwickshire's best Rock & Indie covers bands comprising of accomplished professional musicians, The Warning promise a great night of music & entertainment bringing in 2023.

The Band starts at 8.30.

January 2023

7th January – Disco Night.

Start the New year with some disco Music come on round and strut your stuff to the Disco Beat.

Starts at 8.00pm

14th January – Kurling Night.

Come and have a go with our indoor Kurling game fun for the whole family.

Starts at 7.30pm.

21st January – Risky Galore.

New to the Club Risky Galore are a male vocal/guitar duo from Cheltenham. They play a diverse range of songs including rock, pop, blues, soul, punk, Irish, country, reggae and ska.

From acts as diverse as The Temptations to Green Day!

Starts at 9.00pm.

Free Entry to the Club for Members £3.00 for non-Members

Bishops Tachbrook Sports & Social Club Function room is available for all sorts of activities (T's & C's apply)

: - Dance Classes, Keep Fit, Martial Arts, Band Practice, Group Meetings, Car and Motorcycle Clubs, Children's Clubs, Parties, Christenings, Weddings and Funerals.

We offer a personal service and buffets can be provided if required.

Contact Us



www.bishopstachbrookclub.co.uk



01926 421621/07855709051



enquiries@bishopstachbrookclub.co.uk



bishopstachbrookclub

St Chad's Centre Schedule

Monday	Activity	Contact
10.00-11.30	St Chad's Tinies (was Tachbrook Tinies) Term time only.	Contact on Facebook
16.30-17.45	Martial Arts Class. Children/Beginners up to age 11	Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk
17.45-19.00	Martial Arts Class. Over 12 years and adults	Andy Shaw – andy@linkcube.co.uk
Tuesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	ADVENTURE BABIES Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 9.15am - 10.00am Diddy Adventurers (0-12 months) 10.30am - 11.15am Mini Adventurers (0-18 months) 11.45am - 12.30am	lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk or visit: www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry
16.45-18.30	ATOMIC DANCE Acrobatic Arts 1 4.30pm-5.15pm - Ages 5+ Acrobatic Arts 2 5.20pm-6.20pm - Ages 7+	Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or ellie@atomicdance.co.uk
19.00-20.00	YOGA Supporting Health & Wellbeing Yoga classes with Amanda	www.lifewithamandaj.com

For full details of all events go to <https://bishopstachbrook.com/st-chads-centre/classes-and-activities/>

Wednesday	Activity	Contact
9.15-12.30	ADVENTURE BABIES Times and booking same as Tuesday classes	lindsey@adventurebabies.co.uk or visit: www.adventurebabies.co.uk/warwickshireandcoventry
18.00-19.00	YOGA CLASS Supporting Health & Wellbeing Yoga classes with Amanda	www.lifewithamandaj.com
19.30-21.30	Salsa @ St Chad's Learn and practice Salsa	Enquiries – stchadssalsa@outlook.com
Thursday	Activity	Contact
10.15-11.45	ST CHAD'S COMMUNITY CAFÉ Serving Drinks and Cake for you to enjoy	Chadstreasurer@outlook.com or ring 07713113464
16.00–19.15	ATOMIC DANCE Little Stars Ballet and Musical Theatre (combined class) 2-4 Years 4pm-4.45pm Mini Ballet 4-6 years 4.45pm – 5.30pm	Contact Ellie Rowe 07392 348155 or ellie@atomicdance.co.uk
Friday	Activity	Contact
10.00-12.00	Tai Chi -	Peter Fletcher 07487 685679

History Group

By Ian Morley

Nina Kumin, 'Improvising the night away: musical improvisation in the early modern period'

Nina Kumin lives in the village and describes herself as 'a baroque violinist, teacher and researcher specialising in improvisation'. She is currently completing a Ph. D. in the Department of Music at the University of York, and her talk introduced some of the themes in it. But this was no dry academic talk. The main arguments were put simply and clearly, and illustrated with examples which Nina played on a baroque violin (loaned to her by the University of Cambridge).

To begin with, Nina introduced a contrast between early baroque (roughly 17th century) and later classical music (after 1750). The baroque music was:

created and performed for a specific occasion in honour of named patrons and were often composed quickly. They had to be entertaining and immediately accessible ... and yet also exciting and stimulating enough to be admired by the listeners to result in more commissions. They were expected to be rooted in tradition but to offer something unexpected and individual.

(Nina Kumin, <https://kingsearlymodern.co.uk/keythings/violin-bridge>)

Later, composers appended more and more instructions to their scores and performers tried perfectly to recreate composers' intentions: but in the early baroque period musicians were both performers and composers at the same time.

In early baroque music there were three kinds of improvisation. The first was *ornamentation*, which embellishes something previously composed; the second was *cadenza*, in which performers develop main themes in ways that demonstrate their technical accomplishments; and the third was *composing preludes, fugues, and fantasias in real time, in front of an audience*. Apparently, church organists were often asked to demonstrate their facility at improvisation when they applied for their jobs.

Nina is working on ways to help musicians (and, in particular, violinists) learn the skills of improvising. Her personal focus is on the fantasia. She bases her guidance on several different sources. There are written insights from musicians of the time; there are written scores, some with extensive annotations. At the very least these give us insights into the musical structures and traditions of the baroque period. There is an extensive literature on the skills of improvisation in jazz, blues, and other areas of music. To this Nina has added practice based insights that are specific to playing the violin. Putting all of this together allows her to start with a written version of fantasias by George Philip Telemann and Nicola Matteis and show how musicians of the time may have explored alternative arrangements in real time. She is developing teaching aids which help musicians to lose their fears of making mistakes and which ease them gradually into learning the skills required.



Nature Page

By Steve Harvey

It's nice to see Jupiter shining brightly in the evening sky, rising in the south east and chasing the moon. Later in the evening Orion rises from the same direction to chase both of them across the night sky; all appearing in slow motion of course. It's the closest Jupiter has been to Earth since 1963 when the Beatles were No 1 with "She Loves You". Oh! Those were the days! However in 1963 we had one of the coldest Winters ever with snow until March. . . . So here's hoping that doesn't repeat itself.

Meanwhile as I scribble this we are having one of the warmest Novembers on record. There are Bluebottles, Honey Bees, Bumble Bees and Wasps all making a go of it with many flowers enjoying the warmth, not yet cut down by the frost. I bet by the time anyone reads this (if anyone does) it will all have changed. Bats are still active and I've seen a Barn Owl near Moreton Morrell and a Tawny flying along the hedgerow out of Ashorne. It flew along the top of the hedge regularly dropping either side towards the ground, maybe trying to flush out roosting birds,



Talking of Tawny Owls, we still have them close to the cottage. I'm guessing it's the adult pair. Their position is given away a couple of times a week at the moment by very observant birds. The loud calamity of birds calling out in what must be 'abusive bird speak' is often started by a Blackbird or recently by a Jay. Quickly other species arrive. Chaffinches seem to particularly enjoy the action along with Great Tits, Blue Tits, Jackdaws and Robins. Even heard a Nuthatch join the throng. I do feel sorry for the 'picked on' Owl that will sit tight and hope it all goes away whilst perched on one of the many Yew trees. The other birds take exception to the bird of prey even though it was quietly minding its own business. Sooner or later the bird mob wear themselves out and disperse only to repeat the exercise in a day or so. The only good thing is I know exactly where our Tawny Owl roosts.

A few hundred yards from the Owl is a very large tree that stands tall and wide and catches the early morning sunshine. This has become the hub for a large flock of Fieldfare and Redwing. I'm not sure if these spend the night there or just arrive. It's a great meeting place for them as they chatter, not unlike the Starlings but with more melody. They can be heard half a field away.

Down on the ground we've had another eight Hedgehogs released over the past couple of weeks. That must bring us up to around sixty in the last couple of years. We've even had at least one hang around for me to glimpse. We should be "Hedgehogs are Us!" around here but, as its their nature, to disperse I very rarely see one. Hopefully most of them are still out there and we'll keep trickling them into the community.



TRACC

A waste of Christmas

Try as I might, I find it increasingly hard to resist the thought that we live in such a crazy, illogical and self-destructive way that our species' days surely must be numbered.

Over Christmas the UK produces 30% more food waste, nearly 300m tonnes each year. It's estimated that every Christmas tree bought in the UK this year put end to end, would be the equivalent of a return trip to New York City. Combine that with the 4,500 tonnes of tin foil, the 13,350 tonnes of glass and enough wrapping paper to go round the equator nine times, and we're talking about a huge amount of rubbish – and that doesn't even touch on the gifts and gadgets that are chucked away because they're broken, old or ugly.



At a Christmas time of excess consumption we can easily forget concerns about the world's ability to produce enough food for its growing population in the coming decades. Faced with such looming problems, you'd hope we might think a little more carefully about how we use what we already have.

It seems not. We've had articles about food waste before. I've wrestled with the problems of the supermarket BOGOF, best before dates and what to do with 'leftovers'. But my mind was concentrated on the problem a few years ago by chef and food campaigner Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, in the BBC series, Hugh's War on Waste, tackles the subject.

In one episode we saw Hugh taking food from people's supermarket trolleys and throwing it into a wheelie bin to highlight the fact that the average household bins £700 of food a year. At Christmas we seem to be particularly profligate! He also went undercover as a bin man, challenging residents about the things they throw out and offering them tips to help save food and money.

Worse was to come when he headed to a parsnip farm in Norfolk and found that

due to supermarkets' strict cosmetic standards, huge amounts of veg - between 30 and 40% of the crop - were being wasted.

All this is bad enough but when you consider we're living in a country where poverty has left over a million people dependent on food banks it takes it to another level. The situation is made even more absurd by the fact that most supermarkets have collection points for people to donate items to those food banks - while at the same time those supermarkets and their customers are throwing away huge amounts of produce themselves.

Surely the species that put a man on the moon should be able to organise the production, distribution and consumption of its food in a less wasteful manner. It's not, to coin a phrase, rocket science.

Poetry please

Don't Be A Waster' by Ryland Coke (2021 winner of the Save our Food Poetry competition for under 12s).

*Stop! Before you throw that food away,
could you eat it another day?*

*Lots of leftovers are safe to freeze,
like cookies, fruit and even cheese*

It's really not a great big deal

to serve less food at every meal

*Why don't you use smaller plates
when eating curry with your mates?*

Shop for only the food you need

A dozen donuts? That's just GREED!

And if you do have food to spare

Use an app that helps you share

So don't be a waster - use your brain

Unwanted food causes the planet pain!

News from Heathcote Primary School



It is strange to sit with bright sunshine streaming through my office window and know that this is a piece for the festive time of year. We have been very lucky with the weather this past term and have been able to get outside as much as possible. In our KS2 corridor we have actually brought the outside in and had a fantastic mural created by a local artist Jessica Hartshorn. We decided to promote geography and Jessica has created different habitats; ranging from the desert to the rainforest. On one wall we are able to remind ourselves of the origins of the land our school is built on and have farmland to gaze upon on.

All of our classes have been very busy. In just a few weeks, Reception have had visits from nurses to inform them on 'how to keep their teeth clean'; they have been learning all about numbers up to 3 and lots of exciting outdoor learning such as phonics treasure hunts and dissecting pumpkins. The Reception team are very proud of how the children have settled and how their learning has taken off. They are now working on their nativity play and their unit is full of singing.

Year 1 have loved learning all about their topic "What a Wonderful World". As part of this they learnt all about map skills, and located the continents and learnt a helpful song to remember the name of each continent. They found out about Christopher Columbus and Amelia Earhart, they were so inspired by Christopher Columbus that they had a go at making boats to travel across the seas.



In English they have been busy writing all about where they would like to travel to, we used our key texts: "There's a Map on My Lap" and "A Ticket Around the World" to help research lots of different countries. Meanwhile Year 2 have been exploring castles and in forest school had a catapult building competition.

Their parents and grandparents had a fun afternoon making castles with junk modelling – there were some quite futuristic ones which was interesting to see. The children are very knowledgeable about battlements, turrets and defence systems as well as knights. They enjoyed a zoom meeting with the author Kristina Stephenson of 'Sir Charlie Stinky Socks.' It is great that we have opportunities to link with writers and inspire the children. Year 3 have been learning all about the Stone Age and took part in an exciting work shop, where they became part of a time travelling game. They had to collect various pieces of information and artefacts to help get to the next level. They also visited forest school to become hunter gatherers and enjoyed pretending to live a stone age life. They studied cave art and used sketching skills to draw cave paintings using pastels and also made own designs using clay. The class texts Stone Age Boy and Hunters, Gatherers & Woolly Mammoths inspired their writing which has included diary entries, retrieval questions, inference questions and using fronted adverbials. Year 4 have loved finding out about the Romans, with the Roman day being a firm favourite. They were fortunate enough to have three trips to the forest to learn new



Maths skills, including compass work, rounding numbers and adding tens, hundreds and ones. Science is always a huge hit with the children really engaging in making circuits and investigating what happens when you add or change components. They were also able to use their good scientific skills to create a burglar alarm for the main character in the class book, Varjak Paw. On top of this, they created a dance based on their ideas about electricity, learnt to play three notes on the recorder while following notation, are becoming confident linguists and so much more. Cherry Class (Y5) have delved into the world of the Shang Dynasty - focussing on the significant figures, archaeological discoveries and warrior queens. In English and Topic, they have used 'The Kite Rider' by Geraldine McCaughrean as inspiration for writing and to develop reading skills. The children learnt many interesting facts about the ancient civilisations of China, including, the importance of Gods and spirit ancestors and the difference in the life of rich and poor. There is a circus with performing animals in the story, which led to a brilliant debate whether this should be allowed or banned. Surprisingly, it resulted in a draw until the adults voted! A highlight was having parents and carers come in to partake in an art workshop. Everyone put a lot of thought into their Chinese calligraphy messages and it was lovely to watch all the teamwork between children and adults. The children in Year 6 have been busy developing their understanding of the Industrial Revolution and Victorian era. Over the weeks, they have learnt how the population of the UK moved from the countryside into the cities to take up work in factories so that Britain could become 'The Workshop of the World'. Beech class have also gained an understanding of what living conditions were like during this time, particularly for the poor. To provide children with further context, they read 'Street Child' by Berlie Doherty in English. The children were captivated by the misfortunate story of the main character, Jim Jarvis, applying their knowledge of the story in a variety of writing tasks. The book gave them a real insight into what life would be like for children who were sent to the workhouse or went off to work to support their families.

Beech class have been very creative, designing their own wallpaper based on the work of William Morris. They have also spent time researching Victorian toys and making puppet theatres. In Maths, they have been brushing up on their written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Long division, as expected, has proven to be quite a challenge, but the class have demonstrated an amazing level of perseverance.



We have celebrated different events throughout the term: World Mental Health Day, Diwali, Anti-bullying, , Harvest Festival, Show Racism the Red card, Remembrance Children in Need and of course Remembrance. I hope you can see that we really never stop learning or developing our children as members of our society. We all want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Heathcote Primary wishes everyone a safe and happy time together with their families.

'Christmas will always be as long as we stand, heart to heart and hand in hand.' Dr Seuss
Mrs Humphriss – Executive Head

WI

By Anne Allen

As the Frankie Vallie song goes “Oh What a Night” .

At our last meeting here we all were, plus 8-10 guests, looking forward to learning about chocolate and possibly tasting a little, when the person who organises the speakers arrived a little flustered saying she had been unable to contact Henley Chocolates to confirm final arrangements. No worries we thought, she’s probably on her way with fingers crossed. Unfortunately it later turned out there had been a hiccup with her calendar and we weren’t on it. This was the first time I can remember it happening. We have been told, during the day, that there was a problem and once we had 2 speakers turn up, but a total no show threw me slightly. So if you had thought let’s go and see what WI is all about and encountered a slightly stressed me, I’m sorry. Please don’t be put off it’s not always like that.

Fortunately one of our new ladies stepped into the breach and told us about herself and her work. We also discussed the proposed closure of Oakley Wood Road from the Leopard to the Harbury cross roads and the routing of lorries through the village. A lot of the ladies were unaware of this and a petition was compiled, signed and sent to the Parish Council. The evening finished with a chocolate quiz. Unfortunately it was questions and not a tasting but great fun.

Forthcoming events include a Christmas Carol evening with Avonside WI, an opportunity to create a journal, festive willow makes, to take part in various poetry mornings, and to hear Jeremy Spake with his talk entitled, ‘Come Fly With Us’.

Our now regular meals out are providing popular, I won’t call us a “dining club” that sounds a bit too posh. We have visited Chopsticks in Warwick and are looking forward to meeting at the Leopard in January. This is because we don’t meet in January.

The knitting group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month again at The Leopard at 7:00pm and is open to anyone and if you can’t knit we can help you get started.



This year we are not holding our world famous Christmas party but a quiz night instead together with a fish and chip supper provided by The Village Chippy. As I have been preparing the questions I will say now my answer is the right answer. No arguing.

Don't forget to save your used postage stamps and old or unwanted jewellery. I collect it and recycle with ACWW a charity supported by WI that helps women in underdeveloped countries become more self sufficient through education training and community development programmes . The Warwickshire Federation decides on a particular project and any monies raised goes towards that and not just into the pot.

I'm also still recycling unwanted bras with Bravissimo. Again they donate to a

woman's charity per amount in weight of bras recycled and the bras are taken apart and recycled further. I feel it's a good idea for something that is basically rubbish. Don't worry, I have a large bin in the garage which any donations, still in the bags I get them in, go into.

A reminder, there is no meeting in January but watch this space for more information about the February speaker, we are also to be found on Facebook.

Have a lovely Christmas and make it your New Year Resolution to come along and give us a try.

Anne Allen: 424135, 07929356701, or pussycatgalore12@yahoo.co.uk.

Walking Netball

The Bishop's Tachbrook Walking Netball club is doing well. We meet on Monday mornings at Warwickshire College. We came back after covid with only 5 people, but now have 22 on the books. A lot of the walking netball groups in the surrounding villages have joined us and we now have a waiting list.

12 of us went up to Birmingham in October to a netball festival on Mental Health Day. We learnt a lot and realised there are some serious teams out there. Many of those we played against were ex netball players, fitter and quicker than us, but we enjoyed ourselves.

Some are keen to play matches, the rest of us go for exercise, fun and good company. There is talk of splitting the group if more people want to join.

Many thanks to Olive Belcher our coach, who keeps us all in line. Also, thanks to Bishop's Tachbrook Parish Council who gave us a community grant way back before Covid, it helped us to keep going when our numbers were low, with buying equipment and paying for the gym.

We cannot take any more players at the moment, but if you are interested in joining the waiting list, please contact Kate on kateatkaribu22@outlook.com.

Kate Wellsted

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Thanks to the working party for the work they've done around the parish this year. In November we helped clear around the churchyard



Housing Needs Survey

This is important

With this magazine you should also have found a 'Housing Needs Survey' (HNS). It may seem strange to be conducting such a survey with all the building going on within the Parish. But really that's the point, a lot has changed since the last HNS was carried out in 2019!

It really is vital for us to compile a more accurate profile of residents now living, or wanting to live, in the Parish to inform any future planning decisions your council has to take or try to influence.

The HNS will also help us to find out if the mix of housing types and tenures on offer in the Parish are meeting the current needs of Parishioners.

The survey is being carried out in partnership with Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC). When the survey is complete the Parish Council will consider the results of the survey and work together with WRCC and Warwick District Council to explore how any needs can be addressed.

You can either fill in the form (s) and send them back in the pre-paid envelope provided or, alternatively, the survey can be completed online at:

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BT2022.

The survey has to be completed by Saturday 31st December 2022 .

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CONTACTS

For editorial issues contact Keith on: BTparishmagazine@hotmail.com

Copy deadline for the February 2023 issue is 16th January

For **distribution issues** contact Kate on: kateatkaribu22@outlook.com

Happy New Year To All